

Holidays in Rhythm and Rhyme

Grade Level: 1–3

Content Areas: Music, Art, Social Studies, Technology, and Language Arts

Time Frame: 180 minutes (This can be split into multiple time periods.)

MATERIALS

Holidays in Rhythm and Rhyme series

Research materials (books, computers, journals, etc.)

Paper and writing materials

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Learn about Christmas, Diwali, Halloween, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving Day, and Veterans Day
- Research a holiday of their choice and write a research paper on their findings

KEY VOCABULARY

Before reading, focus on vocabulary. Read the glossary words and their definitions.

Christmas—A Christian holiday that is celebrated on December 25 in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ

Diwali—A Hindu festival with lights, held in the period October to November

Halloween—The night of October 31, when children dress up as ghosts, witches, monsters, and so on, and go to houses to ask for candy

Hanukkah—An eight-day Jewish holiday that is celebrated in November or December

Thanksgiving—The fourth Thursday in November, celebrated as a legal holiday for people to be thankful for what they have

Veterans Day—A public holiday held on the anniversary of the end of World War I to honor US veterans and victims of all wars

FREE SONG

[Click here](#) to download or stream the Holidays in Rhythm and Rhyme songs.

Find other Cantata Learning songs and books at <http://www.cantatalearning.com>.



PROCEDURES/ACTIVITIES

Preparation:

Start this lesson by getting the students to think about holidays by asking for a list of holidays they celebrate. Ask students how they celebrate the holidays and what makes them special to them and their families.

Lesson Procedure:

1. Tell students they are going to learn more about Christmas, Diwali, Halloween, Hanukkah, Thanksgiving Day, and Veterans Day.
2. Explain that students should listen carefully because at the end of the lesson they will get to pick a holiday to study and learn more about. Tell students they are going to be investigators for the holiday of their choice.
3. Read and sing along to each of the Holidays in Rhythm and Rhyme series books with students.
4. Have students either work alone or get into groups of two or three for the research project.
5. Students are now going to be investigators and learn all they can about the holiday they chose to research.
6. Have students get out a piece of paper and write down answers to the following questions as you ask them.
7. First, ask students to determine what exactly it is they want to learn about the holiday they chose. Have them choose three to five things to focus on.
8. Second, ask students what resources they are going to need to find out what they want to know about the holiday.
9. Tell the students, "Now that you know what is needed for your investigation, it is time to gather the resources you need." Arrange to take students to the library or have computers or devices ready for them to use for their research. The [PebbleGo Social Studies](#) database has a holiday section that would be perfect for students' research.
10. Once students have finished their research, have them create a chart or drawing of the main points they have gathered from their research on their holiday.
11. Finally, have students write, revise, and finalize their research paper about the three to five points they selected. You decide the criteria for the final paper according to the grade level of the students.
12. After all students have finished their holiday research papers, have them share their findings with the class.
13. To finish the lesson, have the class discuss similarities and differences they saw throughout everyone's research papers.

Art Extension:

Create a collaborative holiday mural as a class. Students will use the information they gathered while researching their holiday when drawing their part. It will be fun for the students to see all the holidays together in a mural. Again, they can discuss similarities and differences between the holidays.

Science/Nutrition Extension:

Each student will find a recipe from their chosen holiday. They could make it at home and bring in to share with their classmates, or you could pick a couple and cook them together at school. The recipes can be compiled into a simple printed or electronic booklet for each student.

Technology Extension:

Make a class holiday book using [Buncee](#) or another digital storytelling tool. It could be a picture books with just a few words or even a book combining their drawings and research papers. [Here](#) is a post highlighting a project using Buncee and Cantata Learning stories and songs.

Standards:

First Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.10, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.1.2

Second Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.10, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.2

Third Grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.10, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.3.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.3.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.5, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.10, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1

